

THE CHRONICLE

D. F. WRIGHT, M. D., Editor.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

CLARKSVILLE: MARCH 31, 1877.

THE LAST CHANCE FOR STATE CREDIT.

A short interval for consideration is offered to the State of Tennessee for determining a question most momentous as affecting her future welfare, the question whether she will embrace the opportunity of settling her bonded indebtedness on terms which are liberal and generous on the part of her creditors, and which very largely alleviate the burden with which these bonds have pressed upon her straitened resources.

Though we have from time to time kept our readers informed of the proceedings of the present Assembly in reference to the bonds of the State, it will perhaps be as well to make a concise statement of the whole course of events relating to them since the present Legislature commenced its sittings. It is known that for two years previous to the meeting of Legislature, no interest had been paid on the bonds of the State, and that, in the heated canvass that preceded its election, the subject of reduced taxation was very vehemently agitated; and that as a consequence of the discussion of this demand almost to the exclusion of all other interests of the State, a large number of Representatives and Senators went to Nashville pledged to raise nothing by taxation beyond what was necessary for the ordinary expenses of the State, those expenses being reduced to the very lowest amount possible; and it was understood by those who made this proposition, that the interest of the bonded debt was not to be considered as part of the expenses provided for.

About this time or a little before, meetings had been held in New York and elsewhere by persons holding the paper of this and other Southern States, for the purpose of taking into consideration measures for the liquidation of their claims. As a consequence of these meetings a committee of eminent business men was appointed by the bondholders to communicate in their behalf with the State Governments in question, and a letter was received by Gov. Porter from this committee requesting him to appoint a committee of influential Tennesseans to confer with them for the purpose of agreeing upon some basis of adjustment which might be satisfactory to both contracting parties.

This letter was referred by the Governor to the Legislature assembled, who appointed the following members as a committee to confer with the bondholders committee.

John H. Savage, Jesse A. Riddle, Geo. W. Martin, W. E. Travis, Louis Shephard.

This committee immediately organized in Nashville and opened a correspondence with the New York committee, as a result of which a meeting was appointed at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, on the 8th of March. The Tennessee committee arrived in New York on the 7th; they were visited by three members of the bondholders committee, and after some preliminaries agreed to meet for business at the Fifth Avenue Hotel at 7 p. m., on the 8th. Among these preliminary proceedings the Tennessee committee made the statement that their power only extended to the reception of whatever proposition the bondholders committee might make, and reporting it to the Tennessee Legislature sitting at Nashville, who were the only body authorized to accept or reject it.

At this and a subsequent meeting two separate propositions were made as follows:

First Proposition. "That the present debt of the State and all past due interest should be funded at par in new fifty year bonds. The bonds to bear interest for the first five years, at the rate of three per cent. per annum; for a second period of five years at four per cent. per annum; for a third period of five years at five per cent. per annum; and for the remaining thirty-five years at six per cent. per annum."

Second Proposition. "That, adding all the arrears of interest and the interest to accrue up to July 1, 1877, the then aggregate amount of the State debt should be re-adjusted by the issue of new bonds at the rate of 60 per cent. of the total amount, i. e. for every sum of one thousand (\$1000) dollars then due new bonds should be given in exchange and full settlement for six hundred (\$600) dollars or for proportionate amounts. The new bond to bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from the 1st of January 1877, payable semi-annually in the city of New York, the first payment of interest to be made on the first of January 1878, and that principal be payable also in New York in thirty years from date. The interest coupons to be received by the State for all taxes due to it."

We regret to add that the Tennessee committee refused to recommend either of these propositions to the Legislature and protested against both as "not likely to meet the expectations of the General Assembly of Tennessee, or of the people." Those acquainted with recent political affairs in Tennessee cannot but perceive that the appointment of Col. Savage as the chairman of such a committee was an indecent and scandalous outrage. Col. Savage is well known in this State as an avowed repudiator, as one who stamped the whole State to oppose the paying any part of the bonded debt; and as a Legislative body which appointed him on a committee to confer with her creditors on some possible way of settling the debt, must have been intent on the simple question "how not to do it," exactly a parallel committee with that to be sent by the President with Mr. Wheeler at its head to investigate the three investigated Louisiana. He himself said, the first time he addressed the New York committee, "It is a little surprising that they should send me here to make a compromise."

It would indeed have been surprising if they had done so, but it is evident they did not; they sent him for exactly the opposite purpose, to prevent a compromise being made; and it must be said he executed his commission completely. It is true he committed a little blunder, finding it accomplished his thing to talk to a committee of business men from whom he was to harangue a crowd of negroes and

THE PRESIDENT'S SOUTHERN POLICY.

Has he a policy? The friends and apologists who speak for him are now anxiously striving to convince us that the intimations held out by Stanley Matthews, Charles Foster and others during the pendency of the electoral count were mere private opinions of those gentlemen and that they commit the President to nothing.

Meanwhile Gen. Augur has received instructions, as follows: To Governor C. C. Atkins, NEW ORLEANS: "A commission will shortly visit Louisiana in the name of the President to determine the situation of the State. Please report what changes in the situation, if any, have occurred since the date of the late Administration."

And, what in our estimation is much more ominous, the *so-called* Louisiana Senator Kellogg, who is Packard's agent in Washington, has telegraphed to his employer to this effect:

WASHINGTON, March 26.—To Governor C. C. Atkins, New Orleans: "The President desires to know the situation of Louisiana. Please report what changes in the situation, if any, have occurred since the date of the late Administration."

Moreover the commission of inquiry hangs fire because so many appointees refuse to act; it looks out in reference to this, that its main destination is, not to enquire into the validity of the election as effects the two claimants of the Governor's office, but as it bears on the claims of men elected as Senators and Representatives, so that perhaps in the end Gen. Augur's duties will be similar to those of Dr. Tobri and tantamount to the seating of a bogus Legislature. All this is doubtless adopted as a dire necessity occasioned by the great need for Republicans in Congress, indeed it has been long understood that the delay in taking any decisive step was attributable to the purpose of intriguing with Louisiana politicians so as to secure a Republican majority in the State Legislature and thereby three Republican Senators in Congress.

No wonder then that people are asking where is the policy? What is it? When is it to be made? The horizon so far as to be visible to the naked eye? No answer to these questions can possibly be derived from official statements or even from rumors in Washington; and the conclusion is forced upon us that either there never was a policy different from that which has for the last ten years guided the Radical party in dealing with the South, or the President has abandoned it as impracticable in view of the opposition to it within his own party, and perhaps in view of the utter ruin of that party which must follow if it is carried out.

A mere glance at the several points of intelligence which we have detailed above will make all this plain to the feeblest intelligence. This renewed talk about the *status quo* for instance; so far from being a step in advance it is a step backwards. General Grant had got beyond that, and had plainly intimated to Governor Nichols that he would no longer be restricted to the *status quo*; and had even commanded the removal of the troops, though that command of his was tampered with by the late Secretary of War when it was too late for Grant to correct the error. The *status quo*! Either Mr. Hayes is a much more man than Gen. Grant, or he must be inconceivably stupid to imagine that things can be maintained as they are in Louisiana, for an indefinite length of time without an explosion; if he is a knave he desires that explosion, as a means of cutting his campaign in two; if he is a fool he may possibly think that gun powder and coals of fire can be harmlessly mixed up together for an indefinite length of time until his precious intrigues shall have been productive of the Radical Senators in the coming Congress.

But then what becomes of his high sounding words about the American flag waving over not provinces but States.

If Louisiana is a sovereign State what business have his troops balancing the claims of two conflicting claimants as Governor? What business has he giving an opinion upon the validity of the Supreme Court of Louisiana? His presumption is just as great though not quite so outspoken as Grant's was when he said "Damn the Supreme Court!" Moreover, if State rights are to be his guide, what has he to do with the Legislature of Louisiana any more than he has the Government of England? Either Mr. Hayes never did know his own mind or he has been turned round and round so by persons who have been talking with him, that he has become dizzy with it, and has forgotten what he did mean. He may or may not have intended to treat the Southern States as enjoying the same status as that claimed by the Northern; but if he ever did he has been induced to abandon it; he may have hoped to be the President of the whole nation, but he has already sunk to the position of Grant's champion of the "party which I represent."

During the late Presidential contest, when the opinions and intentions and private character of Mr. Hayes were insisted on as a consideration to disarm Democratic animosity, it was well replied by Democratic speakers and the Democratic press, that if elected by the Republican party his policy would be not what he might wish, but what would be forced upon him by those who made him President; but even we ourselves did not realize how soon this would be made plain; but then we did not at that time anticipate the weakness which his policy would derive from the rottenness of his title.

The following gentlemen having accepted, are announced as the commission to visit Louisiana: Judge Charles Lawrence, Illinois; Ex-Governor J. C. Brown, Tennessee; General Joseph R. Hawley, Connecticut; General John M. Harlan, Kentucky; and Wayne M. Veigh, Pennsylvania.

The following copy of Brigham Young's order commanding the Mountain Meadow massacre has just come to light:

SALT LAKE CITY, April 19, 1858.

The officer in command of the escort is hereby ordered to see that every man is well prepared with ammunition, and to have it ready at the time you see these treacherous hundred miles from the settlement. President Young added, that they should be all killed, to prevent them from coming to join our enemies. Every precaution should be taken, and see that not one escapes. Secrecy is imperative.

By order of Gen. Daniel H. Wells, JAMES FERGUSON, Assistant Adjutant General.

WHAT THE LEGISLATURE ACCOMPLISHED.

A Resume of the Bills which the General Assembly Have Made Laws.

From the Nashville Banner.

The following are the headings of the bills which have passed the General Assembly during the session.

An act to repeal an act entitled "An act to increase the revenues of the State and to encourage wool-growing," otherwise known as the act of 1869, which was repealed by the act of 1870, in consequence of the decision of the Supreme Court, declaring the dog law unconstitutional.

The bill repealing the conventional interest law, and making the legal rate of interest six per cent., was one of the important measures passed during the session.

An act to be entitled "An act to declare the terms of which foreign corporations organized for mining or manufacturing purposes may carry on their business, and purchase, hold and convey real and personal property in this State." This act was passed allowing all corporations to carry on business under the laws of Tennessee, and was a very real and permanent benefit to the State. This act will be executed here on account of political opinions, that no discrimination shall be made in the administration of justice, and that all citizens of both parties and both races, shall be regarded as fully protected by and amenable to the laws.

To abolish the office of County Judge of Sumner county, and to authorize the Justices of the County Court to elect a chairman thereof. A bill similar to this, relating to Davidson county, failed in the Senate.

To create the county of Haves from the counties of Carroll, Henderson, Benton and Decatur. A bill to create the new county of Wisdom from the counties of Lake, Lauderdale and other counties failed to pass.

To change the time of the sessions of the Supreme Court, and to make it meet at Nashville in December, Jackson in April, and Knoxville in September.

To grant to the purchasers of railroad under mortgage all the rights, powers and privileges under the charter of the railroad.

To declare the mode and manner of valuing the property of telegraph companies for taxation, and of taxing sleeping cars.

To amend an act entitled "An act declaring the mode and manner of valuing the property of a railroad company for taxation," passed March 20, 1875, and to amend an act of 1871, providing a tax of forty cents on every hundred dollars worth of taxable property for State purposes without making levy of any amount.

The object of the other bill is, that a tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars worth of property is not sufficient to pay the interest expenses, unless a settlement of the past due taxes are made than can be reasonably anticipated; the appropriation bill just passed, appropriates for the next two years, one million five hundred and twenty dollars; of this amount, three hundred and thirty thousand dollars are for the school fund. With a tax of ten cents, the State will derive a revenue from privileges and property, according to present valuations of about one hundred and twenty-seven thousand per annum.

This will cause a considerable deficiency, and if the valuation of property is materially reduced by the assessment bill just passed, this deficiency may assume an alarming magnitude. I had earnestly hoped that the present General Assembly would at a special session be able to relieve the anxiety on the subject of the State debt, by making a settlement of the past due taxes payable to the taxpayers, before a political canvass would surround it with new assessments, but I can not see the wisdom of an adjustment without a revenue to meet the engagements that would naturally follow. To my mind, the wisest adjustment would be a settlement of the debt.

JAMES D. PORTER, Governor. Executive Order, March 26, 1877.

The first of the two bills referred to repeats the forty-cent tax law and the other fixes the rate of taxation at ten cents on every hundred dollars worth of property.

No commission can find out anything about Louisiana that has not already been told. The only reason why we are to prolong the *status quo*, which is another name for anarchy, and the only excuse for the commission is that they are to be paid for nothing. The bill made him president, believes in going back of the returns. But in this connection the country has lost its confidence in the commission. —Philadelphia Times, Ind.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Judge Smith at Home.

Last of all our political celebrities, the Hon. C. G. Smith is once more at home and enjoying rest from labors which, if not so world-renowned as those of our M. C.'s, have been performed in as heated an atmosphere of political controversy as that of Washington itself.

The position of Judge Smith has been eminently a conservative one; he has done more in resisting pernicious legislation than in instituting measures himself, and in some instances has been highly successful—especially so in opposing the suppression of our Criminal Court, which measure would have inflicted enormous expense and ruinous delay on all concerned in civil cases, which would have been crowded out for years to make room for the teeming and ever increasing criminal business, which in that case would have had to be transacted in the same court with precedence over the civil business in point of time.

While he has been a conscientious representative, we hardly imagine the Judge will be a candidate for re-election—at least we have never seen a school boy of thirteen more delighted at the breaking up of school than our learned friend at the adjournment of Legislature.

One more of our legislators, though he is not a resident of Clarksville, we should be glad to see, and that is our Floater, the Hon. NATHAN BRANDON. We are told that he has won golden opinions of men whose opinion is worth winning, by stemming bravely the tide of reckless and destructive legislation, and in doing so, he has done nothing more than we expected of him, for he has long been known to us as a good man and true.

"Justice may Sleep, but never Dies."

At 11 o'clock on the morning of March 23rd, at Salt Lake City, John Lee was executed. He suffered the penalty of the law for a crime committed nearly twenty years prior, the Mountain Meadow Massacre. Described by his church, or rather fellows, rejected by his wives who had enjoyed his plenty, after a long imprisonment he was shot. This method of death was his own selection, and his last words "aim at my heart," shows a species of heroism worthy of a better cause.

Alone he was not advised he wrote out a full confession, no white-wash and statement, but clear and pointed, and inclined to implicate some of the highest dignitaries of the Mormon Church.

Governor Hampton's Reply to the President's Invitation to Visit Washington.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 26.—Governor Hampton received yesterday a letter from the President, inviting him to Washington. To-day he has written the following reply:

COLUMBIA, March 26, 1877. To R. R. Hayes, President United States, Washington, D. C.

SIR—We have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the twenty-third instant, addressed to me by you, and in reply to inform you that, as you express a desire for a personal conference with myself, I accept, through motives of proper courtesy to yourself, the invitation you have extended, though I can not hope by doing so to throw additional light on questions which have been already so fully and thoroughly presented, and the solution of which is so obvious and simple; but, understanding from the communication that you have received the object contemplated by the proposed conference is solely that I might place before you my views of the impediments to a peaceful and orderly organization of a

single and undivided State government in South Carolina, and of the best method of removing them, I shall avail myself of your invitation, so that I may reiterate in person what I have the honor to submit in writing; that in my judgment all impediments to the objects so earnestly desired by yourself and so anxiously expected by the people of the State can only be removed by a withdrawal of the Federal troops from the Statehouse. This action on the part of the war power is the chief of the United States forces would not only be hailed by our people as evidence that the civil authority is no longer to be subordinated and the military power in our country, but it would establish law, insure domestic tranquility, revive our wasted industries, and give assurance that this State is to be restored to her just rights under the Constitution. Whatever grievance, whatever wrong we suffer, we propose to redress them not by resort to force, but by legal and constitutional agencies. In seeking such redress I feel sure that I represent the determination of the thoughtful and conservative portion of our whole people when I give assurance that no provision shall be executed here on account of political opinions, that no discrimination shall be made in the administration of justice, and that all citizens of both parties and both races, shall be regarded as fully protected by and amenable to the laws.

As a writer in the Review under the caption "Wait for the wagon," backs our last weeks strictures on the St. L. & S. E. R. R., in a very racy article, he has vivid and kindly recollection of the old times in Clarksville, when a procession of wagons loaded with ponderous tobacco hogsheads extending for the river for miles along every one of our turnpikes, and he evidently rejoices in the reflection that what has been, may be again. In this connection let us suggest to our travelling friends that they can now get much more direct communication with Nashville, by taking Bowling Green rather than Guthrie as their point of departure east; and that if through any casualty they should have to lie over, Bowling Green is a pleasant place to lie over at, than Guthrie; and if the St. L. & S. E. R. R. give us the go, there is no harm in a little *lie over* for that. Also, hurry up those wagon trains.

NEW GIBSON HOUSE.—Being in Cincinnati, last week, on business, we put up with mine hosts, Jeffrey & Gibson, of the new and elegantly appointed Gibson House. Here you find first class rooms and table fare for little money. From the office to the engine everything is conducted like clockwork.

Messrs. Jeffrey & Gibson, and the courteous clerks in the office, will see to it that you are cared for in the best style and no "fuss and feathers" about it. We advise all our friends, when in Cincinnati, to stop at the Gibson. We paid the cash, per day, for all we got during our sojourn at this well regulated house and only mention the fact to show that this notice is given solely upon the merits of the hotel, and not because, as is often the case, that printers are dead-headed to secure a puff.

OFF FOR HIS FIRST CIRCUIT.—On our way to Louisville last week we had, for a traveling companion, a young Mr. Dempsey, son of Rev. J. R. Dempsey, of Auburn, Ky. Our young preacher friend was on his way to Gosport, Indiana, to take charge of his first circuit. He was leaving home and kindred to cast his lot among strangers, and he gained our sympathy in giving a detailed account of his mission.

He had great misgivings on account of his age and this being his first attempt as an itinerant in his Master's service. The young brother has our best wishes for his future success, and, unless we are mistaken in human nature, he will send up a good report to the next conference.

The bill to change the times for holding Chancery Court, in this division has become a law. The Courts will hereafter be held as follows:

GALLATIN, Sevier county, 1st Monday of January and June.

HICKMAN, Wayne county, 4th Monday of January and June.

MONTGOMERY, Montgomery county, 1st Monday of February and July.

DOVER, Hamilton county, 1st Monday of March and 4th Monday of July.

ASHLAND, City, Chertown county, 1st Monday of March and 4th Monday of July.

GERARDON, Wilson county, 4th Monday of April and 8th Monday of October.

ROBERTSON, Robertson county, 2nd Monday of May and 8th Monday of November.

All process heretofore issued and not returned and all hereafter issued, will be returnable to the times now fixed by this act for the holding of the Courts in this division.

GOOD WINE.—We have to acknowledge the receipt of a specimen of extra dry imperial Champagne, the manufacture of the Ohio Valley Wine Company. This article was presented by the courtesy of Messrs. Keesee & Northington. Distrustful of our own judgment we called in the *clerk* of the judicial and legislative wisdom of Strawberry alley as experts to pronounce upon its merits. The zeal with which they entered upon their duties was exemplary, and their testimony in favor of the defendant was unanimous, far more harmonious than the far-famed eight by seven of the Electoral Commission.

TICKETS are now on sale at the passenger depot for Nashville via Bowling Green at \$5.15, this ticket is not taken up by the conductors, but upon arrival at Nashville the Railroad agent receives the ticket as a coupon and allows a rebate of \$2.50, thus reducing the fare to \$2.65 the same as over the South Eastern road, with the advantage of an hour's time in favor of this route and no stop over at Guthrie.

State Officers Reappointed.

The Governor has sent into the Senate the following nominations: Leon Trousdale to be Superintendent of Public Instruction; J. B. Killebrew, Commissioner of the Bureau of Agriculture, Statistics and Mines; and B. P. Cheatham, Superintendent of Prisons. All were reappointments, and were immediately confirmed by the Senate.

Knights of Honor.

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Knights of Honor, will meet in Nashville on Tuesday next. D. B. Gally, Grand Dictator of the State, will preside. It is expected that nearly one hundred fifty delegates will be present. The Lodge will be in session three or four days.

The pastor, Rev. R. K. Brown, will hold a meeting at South Clarksville church, on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The members are expected, and the public invited to be present.

To-morrow is All Fools' day.

PERSONAL.—"J. J. West, Attorney at Law," in the person of which we soon appear at the door of our young friend's new office, which is the one lately occupied by Dr. Beaumont immediately opposite the Court house. John is now entirely on his own hook and has not only our fervent wishes, but our sanguine hopes for his success; indeed we have no doubt of it. He inherits all the social qualities which for so many years made his father the most popular citizen in Clarksville, and besides this, he has given his energies to the study and practice of his profession in the same thorough way as, when at college, he established his position as one of the most finished scholars who ever left his halls. Moreover he possesses that most important requisite for success in any undertaking, a host of friends, conciliated both by the memory of his father's excellencies and by the social qualities of his own mind and heart. For such men "there is no such word as fail."

"Wait for the Wagon."

A writer in the Review under the caption "wait for the wagon," backs our last weeks strictures on the St. L. & S. E. R. R., in a very racy article, he has vivid and kindly recollection of the old times in Clarksville, when a procession of wagons loaded with ponderous tobacco hogsheads extending for the river for miles along every one of our turnpikes, and he evidently rejoices in the reflection that what has been, may be again. In this connection let us suggest to our travelling friends that they can now get much more direct communication with Nashville, by taking Bowling Green rather than Guthrie as their point of departure east; and that if through any casualty they should have to lie over, Bowling Green is a pleasant place to lie over at, than Guthrie; and if the St. L. & S. E. R. R. give us the go, there is no harm in a little *lie over* for that. Also, hurry up those wagon trains.

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Our wide-awake German friend and townsman, Mr. C. Wenzler, has purchased several acres of ground which fronts on Madison street adjoining the property occupied by the Jackson brothers. By dint of his great energy Mr. Wenzler is making it a very desirable location, and we hope he may be fully remunerated for his honest labors. He is an honest, deserving citizen, and has the luck to succeed.

Our office was gladdened on Thursday by the presence of Mr. Theo. Hartman, superintendent of Little Rock & Fort Smith railroad. All printers and especially those of Clarksville have a fellow feeling for Theo; for in the good old days he was a compositor in the Jeffersonian office. After a short visit to his father he returned to his post of duty on Friday morning. Success attend you in the hearty wish of the CHRONICLE.

LENT is over. Now let the young people bury up. Our Senior has lately purchased in person a handsome wedding cabinet, and as an inducement to act manly, and finish up the affair, the CHRONICLE proposes to neatly display your name alongside of your fair delectable at fabulously low prices. We never divulge secrets, so no fear; bashful young gen.

On Tuesday night last a fire originating from a defective fire, destroyed the kitchen, dining-room and smoke house, at the Wm. Moore place, near the seven mile ferry. By prompt action Mr. Bryan and others saved the residence, the loss is estimated at \$600 partially covered by insurance with Messrs. Kennedy & Faxon.

OUR COUNTRY!

WHAT WILL BECOME OF IT?

Is a question now agitating the public mind. Grave issues before Congress; the final settlement of the late Presidential election; the coming Congress; the President; the policy of the next administration; the S. E. give us the go, there is no harm in a little *lie over* for that. Also, hurry up those wagon trains.

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